

Feb. 9, 2003 — Study #482

◆◆◆◆ LOS ANGELES TIMES® POLL ALERT ◆◆◆◆

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED

The Times Poll contacted 1,385 respondents nationwide who had participated in a Los Angeles Times telephone poll conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2. For this survey, 809 men and women from the original study were contacted again by telephone Fri. and Sat. The sampling frame for the original study had been randomly selected from a list of all exchanges in the nation. That sample was produced from telephone numbers which used random-digit dialing techniques so that listed and unlisted numbers could be contacted. Replies from this subset of the original sample were weighted to account for sex, race, age, education and region. As a result, previously published findings for the original study may sometimes differ slightly from results obtained from this subset. On the other hand, differences in replies to identical questions asked at different times show exact changes of attitudes for the weighted subset. The margin of sampling error for the original sample and for the sample contacted again is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For certain subgroups the error margin may be somewhat higher. Poll results can also be affected by other factors such as changing events, question wording and the order in which questions are presented.

NOTES

All answer frequencies are given in percentages.
 “–” indicates less than 0.5%.
 The wording of some questions has been abridged.

SELECTED RESULTS FROM THE TIMES POLL NATIONAL SURVEY Feb. 7–8, 2003

(A full summary of results will be available at a later date through the Los Angeles Times Poll)

GUIDE TO COLUMN HEADINGS

A total of 1,385 respondents were interviewed Jan. 30–Feb. 2, before Colin Powell’s speech to the U.N. Security Council. Eight hundred nine respondents were interviewed again Feb. 7–8, after the speech.

- PRE Pre-speech responses of the group interviewed again
- POST Post-speech responses of the group interviewed again
- DEM Self-described Democrats among the post-speech group
- IND Self-described independents among the post-speech group
- REP Self-described Republicans among the post-speech group
- LIB Political liberals among the post-speech group
- MOD Political moderates among the post-speech group
- CON Political conservatives among the post-speech group

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

	Post-Speech							
	PRE	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve	52	61	43	52	98	32	63	79
Disapprove	42	35	53	42	1	67	32	17
Don’t know	6	4	4	6	1	1	5	4

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	ALL
Approve	56
Disapprove	39
Don’t know	5

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling the situation with Saddam Hussein in Iraq?

	Post-Speech							
	PRE	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve	54	60	44	56	95	31	63	79
Disapprove	43	38	54	42	5	68	36	19
Don’t know	3	2	2	2	–	1	1	2

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	ALL
Approve	58
Disapprove	38
Don’t know	4

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Colin Powell is handling his job as secretary of state?

	Post-Speech						
	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Approve	78	72	73	92	64	82	84
Disapprove	16	23	19	4	32	11	11
Don’t know	6	5	8	4	4	7	5

Generally speaking, do you trust President Bush to make the right decision about whether we should go to war with Iraq, or not?

	Post-Speech							
	PRE	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Trust him	53	57	38	50	92	31	60	70
Don’t trust him	44	39	57	47	3	68	38	22
Don’t know	3	4	5	3	5	1	2	8

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	<u>ALL</u>
Trust him	55
Don't trust him	39
Don't know	6

How closely have you been following the news that the United States is considering military action against Saddam Hussein and Iraq?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>PRE</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Closely	91	90	95	85	90	98	83	93
Not closely	9	9	4	15	7	2	17	5
Don't know	-	1	1	-	3	-	-	2

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	<u>ALL</u>
Closely	89
Not closely	10
Don't know	1

Do you think that it is inevitable that the United States will take military action against Iraq, or do you think there is a possibility that will not happen, or do you think that the United States will definitely not take military action against Iraq?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>PRE</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Inevitable	74	78	84	73	76	81	77	79
Might not happen	23	19	14	26	19	18	20	18
Definitely not	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Don't know	2	3	1	1	5	1	3	3

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	<u>ALL</u>
Inevitable	73
Might not happen	22
Definitely not	1
Don't know	4

Suppose President George W. Bush decides to order U.S. troops into a ground attack against Iraqi forces. Would you support or oppose that decision?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>PRE</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Support	55	58	47	49	87	38	54	76
Oppose	41	37	52	45	7	61	38	19
Don't know	4	5	1	6	6	1	8	5

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	<u>ALL</u>
Support	57
Oppose	38
Don't know	5

Regardless of whether you support or oppose military action in Iraq, if the U.S. does take military action against Iraq, how long do you think it will last? Do you think it will last up to a week?

(IF UP TO A WEEK) Up to a month?
 (IF UP TO A MONTH) Up to three months?
 (IF UP TO THREE MONTHS) Up to six months?
 (IF UP TO SIX MONTHS) Up to a year?
 (IF UP TO A YEAR) Do you think the war in Iraq will last longer than that?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	
Up to a week	5	2	6	5	4	3	7	
Up to a month	20	20	18	27	16	19	26	
Up to three months	20	19	23	22	13	28	17	
Up to six months	14	14	16	10	17	18	7	
Up to a year	12	14	11	9	18	10	11	
More than a year	18	26	15	7	23	16	15	
Don't know	11	5	11	20	9	6	17	

Regardless of whether you support or oppose military action in Iraq, if the U.S. does take military action against Iraq, after the war do you think the U.S. should stay in the country to insure stability and help Iraq rebuild, or not?

(IF U.S. SHOULD STAY) How long do you think the U.S. should stay and help rebuild Iraq? Do you think it should be up to a month?

(IF UP TO A MONTH) Up to three months?
 (IF UP TO THREE MONTHS) Up to six months?
 (IF UP TO SIX MONTHS) Up to a year?
 (IF UP TO A YEAR) Do you think U.S. has to stay longer than that?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>	
Should not stay	22	22	27	14	28	26	15	
Up to a month	2	1	-	2	-	1	1	
Up to three months	3	1	3	6	2	5	2	
Up to six months	8	8	7	12	4	9	12	
Up to a year	18	12	21	18	18	17	19	
More than a year	38	45	33	42	41	33	43	
Don't know	9	11	9	6	7	9	8	

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The United States should take military action against Iraq only if that military action has the support of the United Nations Security Council"?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>PRE</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Agree	65	62	78	64	32	74	69	42
Disagree	32	37	22	35	65	25	30	56
Don't know	3	1	-	1	3	1	1	2

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	<u>ALL</u>
Agree	65
Disagree	30
Don't know	5

What if the United Nations Security Council does not approve military action against Iraq, but the U.S. has the support of some allies, such as Great Britain. In that situation, would you support or oppose taking military action against Iraq?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>PRE</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Support	50	55	46	44	85	35	52	72
Oppose	45	42	52	52	9	64	45	24
Don't know	5	3	2	4	6	1	3	4

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	<u>ALL</u>
Support	51
Oppose	43
Don't know	6

Did you happen to watch or listen to Colin Powell's presentation to the United Nations Security Council this past Wednesday morning? (IF NOT) Have you heard, seen or read anything about his speech since then?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>							
	<u>PRE*</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Watched/listened or heard about (Net)	73	64	65	63	64	69	59	68
Watched/listened	59	47	49	43	47	49	42	51
Heard about it	14	17	16	21	17	19	17	17
Not heard anything	27	36	35	37	36	31	41	32

* In the earlier poll (PRE), the panel was asked if they had watched/listened/heard about President Bush's State of the Union speech.

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	<u>ALL†</u>
Watched/Listened or heard about (Net)	66
Watched/Listened	52
Heard about it	14
Not heard anything	33
Don't know	1

† In the earlier poll, the question was: "Did you get a chance to watch or listen to George W. Bush's State of the Union speech to Congress this past Tuesday night? ..."

(ASKED OF THOSE WHO WATCHED/LISTENED/HEARD ABOUT POWELL'S SPEECH)

Secretary of State Colin Powell presented evidence to the U.N. Security Council that the Bush administration claims is proof that Iraq has failed to comply with U.N. resolutions and is actively working to deceive U.N. weapons inspectors. Do you agree or disagree that the U.S. has proved its case that Iraq has failed to comply and is in violation of its agreements? (IF AGREE OR DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>						
	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Agree strongly	50	37	45	76	34	42	68
Agree somewhat	24	28	19	20	33	28	15
Disagree somewhat	13	15	22	3	22	18	2
Disagree strongly	11	19	13	1	10	10	14
Don't know	2	1	1	-	1	2	1

Powell presented evidence to the U.N. Security Council that the Bush administration claims is proof that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction which include chemical and biological weapons. Do you agree or disagree that the U.S. has proved its case that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction? (IF AGREE OR DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>						
	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Agree strongly	47	36	48	72	33	38	69
Agree somewhat	23	25	13	23	28	25	14
Disagree somewhat	16	19	24	3	22	23	6
Disagree strongly	12	19	12	1	15	10	11
Don't know	2	1	3	1	2	4	-

Powell presented evidence to the U.N. Security Council that the Bush administration claims is proof that Iraq has close ties with members of the Al Qaeda terrorist network. Do you agree or disagree that the U.S. has proved its case that Iraq has close ties with the Al Qaeda terrorist network? (IF AGREE OR DISAGREE) Do you (agree/disagree) strongly or only somewhat?

	<u>Post-Speech</u>						
	<u>POST</u>	<u>DEM</u>	<u>IND</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>LIB</u>	<u>MOD</u>	<u>CON</u>
Agree strongly	45	38	39	65	37	38	55
Agree somewhat	19	13	17	23	12	29	17
Disagree somewhat	19	22	22	10	18	22	16
Disagree strongly	13	16	21	1	28	8	7
Don't know	4	11	1	1	5	3	5

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view:

“Before Colin Powell’s speech to the U.N Security Council I did not favor U.S. military action against Iraq, but the speech changed my mind and I favor it now,” or
 “Before Colin Powell’s speech to the U.N Security Council I did not favor U.S. military action against Iraq, and the speech did not change my mind,” or
 “Before Colin Powell’s speech to the U.N Security Council I favored U.S. military action against Iraq, and the speech did not change my mind,” or
 “Before Colin Powell’s speech to the U.N Security Council I favored U.S. military action against Iraq, but the speech changed my mind and I do not favor it now”?

	Post-Speech							
	PRE*	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Changed mind (Net)	<u>9</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>
Didn’t favor before, do now	7	10	11	5	5	14	5	6
Favored before, don’t now	2	4	3	2	5	3	7	2
No change (Net)	<u>88</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>90</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>92</u>
Didn’t favor before, still don’t	43	36	54	45	6	51	38	26
Favored before, still do	45	50	31	48	84	32	50	66
Don’t know	<u>3</u>	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	-	-	-

ALTERNATE BREAK:

	Post-Speech							
	PRE*	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Favor action (Net)	<u>52</u>	<u>60</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>72</u>
Favored before, still do	45	50	31	48	84	32	50	66
Didn’t favor before, do now	7	10	11	5	5	14	5	6
Don’t favor (Net)	<u>45</u>	<u>40</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>28</u>
Didn’t favor before, still don’t	43	36	54	45	6	51	38	26
Favored before, don’t now	2	4	3	2	5	3	7	2
Don’t know	<u>3</u>	-	<u>1</u>	-	-	-	-	-

* In the earlier poll (PRE), the panel was asked about their reaction to President Bush’s State of the Union speech.

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	ALL†
Changed mind (Net)	<u>12</u>
Didn’t favor before, do now	9
Favored before, don’t now	2
No change (Net)	<u>83</u>
Didn’t favor before, still don’t	36
Favored before, still do	48
Don’t know	<u>5</u>

ALTERNATE BREAK:

	ALL†
Favor action (Net)	<u>57</u>
Favored before, still do	48
Didn’t favor before, do now	9
Don’t favor (Net)	<u>38</u>
Didn’t favor before, still don’t	36
Favored before, don’t now	2
Don’t know	<u>5</u>

† In the earlier poll, the question referred to President Bush’s State of the Union speech.

(ASKED OF EVERYONE)

Some member nations of the Security Council have called for stepping up weapons inspections in Iraq before any military action is taken.

Do you think that the United States should allow the inspection process in Iraq to continue before taking military action, or should we take military action now, or do you think the United States should not take military action at all?

(IF CONTINUE) Well, how long do you think inspections should continue before taking military action? Do you think the United States should allow the inspections to go on for up to a few more weeks?

(IF A FEW MORE WEEKS) Do you think the United States should allow the inspections to go on for up to a few more months?

(IF A FEW MORE MONTHS) Do you think the United States should allow the inspections to go on for as long as needed?

	Post-Speech							
	PRE*	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
No action	18	10	13	9	1	13	10	7
Take action now	20	30	17	22	60	22	21	41
A few more weeks	24	23	28	19	20	21	27	24
A few more months	13	10	9	15	3	13	12	6
As long as needed	19	22	30	29	8	30	23	16
Don't know	6	5	3	6	8	1	7	6

* In the earlier poll (PRE), the panel was asked this question *without* the preliminary statement: "Some member nations of the Security Council have called for stepping up weapons inspections in Iraq before any military action is taken."

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	ALL†
No action	12
Take action now	21
A few more weeks	26
A few more months	16
As long as needed	19
Don't know	6

† In the earlier poll, the question did *not* include the preliminary statement: "Some member nations of the Security Council have called for stepping up weapons inspections in Iraq before any military action is taken."

Which of these two statements comes closer to your view: "The only way to eliminate the risk posed by Saddam Hussein would be for the U.N. to establish a permanent weapons inspection team in Iraq," or "The only way to eliminate the risk posed by Saddam Hussein would be to take military action and remove him from power"?

	Post-Speech							
	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	
Permanent inspections	34	46	43	6	64	33	17	
Military action	57	49	50	80	30	59	73	
Both (Vol.)	2	1	2	2	–	3	2	
Don't know	7	4	5	12	6	5	8	

Would you support or oppose allowing Saddam Hussein to go into exile in exchange for the U.S. not taking military action against Iraq?

	Post-Speech							
	PRE	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON
Support	64	60	62	63	56	66	60	54
Oppose	29	34	34	30	37	32	34	37
Don't know	7	6	4	7	7	2	6	9

Compare: Entire sample, Poll #481 (conducted Jan. 30–Feb. 2)

	ALL
Support	61
Oppose	30
Don't know	9

As you may know, (today/yesterday) the U.S. upgraded its level of terror alert for Americans—going from "elevated" to "high" alert. Do you think the threat of terrorism against Americans at home and abroad has increased because the U.S. is seeking to take military action against Iraq, or has it decreased, or don't you think the U.S. seeking military action against Iraq has affected the threat of terrorism against Americans at home and abroad?

	Post-Speech							
	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	
Increased	71	76	73	65	80	66	71	
Decreased	2	1	4	1	–	1	3	
No effect	22	19	18	30	16	26	22	
Don't know	5	4	5	4	4	7	4	

Will the upgraded alert from "elevated" to "high" cause you to avoid going to public places or major events, or will you go to public places or major events just as often as you did before the upgraded alert? By major events, I mean sporting events, or concerts, or theme parks like Disneyland, or public parks.

	Post-Speech							
	POST	DEM	IND	REP	LIB	MOD	CON	
Avoid public places	10	16	10	5	9	9	14	
Not avoid	88	83	88	95	91	88	85	
Don't know	2	1	2	–	–	3	1	

Tables compiled by RAY ENSLOW